المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
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In a statement issued today, the London-based Islamic Council strongly condemned the Bulgarian regime for perpetrating a great human tragedy. It said that for several years the Bulgarian regime has been inflicting monstrous barbarities on its ethnic Muslim minority. The oppression reached such high proportions this year that the country's Muslim citizens found life unberable and began to flee into neighbouring Turkey, leaving behind their homes, lands, businesses and other worldly possessions. Already 300,000 have arrived in Turkey and thousands more are joining them daily. However, the Bulgarian authorities are holding back forcibly children and young people so as not to deplete the country's labour force, thus splitting families.

The statement said that the Islamic Council had taken up the question with the Bulgarian authorites several times during the last few years but to no avail and that a stage has been reached which calls for urgent action at international level.

The Council appealed to governments, United Nations, and human rights organisations to use all means at their disposal to prevail upon the Bulgarian regime to put an immediate stop to the blatant persecution of its Muslim citizens and to compensate those who have fled Bulgaria for the possessions they had to leave behind.

It also made a fervent appeal to the governments of industrialised nations, Muslim countries and philanthropists to come forward with generous financial and material help to ameliorate the plight of the refugees in Turkey. Although Turkey is doing all it can, the commitment is far beyond the resources of any one country. Any delay in this matter will further compound the tragedy, the statement said.

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